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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 867

By Womack

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and commend Eleanor Bright Fleming on her outstanding work and exemplary performance as the state intern to the Senate Education Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly.

WHEREAS, through the course of each legislative session, there have emerged certain individuals who far exceed the basic requirement set forth for them to follow; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor Bright Fleming has distinguished herself as one such individual through her hard work as a legislative intern to the esteemed Senate Education Committee and her tireless efforts have resulted in untold benefits to Chairman, Senator Andy Womack and the committee staff, Sandi Jones and Jacqueline Nash; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fleming is a native Tennessean hailing from the beautiful city of Franklin, within Williamson County, where she is the daughter of proud parents Barbara and Thomas Fleming; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor has graduated with high honors, Phi Beta Kappa, from prestigious Vanderbilt University with a double major in Political Science and African American Studies and received her Bachelor of Arts degree on May 12, 2000; and

WHEREAS, she has experienced the finer points of the Tennessee General Assembly and has become well versed in the State of Education in Tennessee, the House Education Committee, watching out for Fluffy, (even though one appearance of Fluffy in our office was one of the true highlights of Eleanor's internship), the nutritional value of Krispy Kreme doughnuts, copy room repairs and locations, and the real meaning of "THE BIG PICTURE" as well as the distribution and compilation of summary packets and the importance of multiple copies of legislation; and

WHEREAS, she has also enjoyed the great things that come from being a state intern with the Senate Education Committee such as staff meetings with Team Womack, including her fellow office intern Tara Prairie, fresh donuts on Wednesday, lunch at La Paz, fried chicken at Monell's, chocolate shakes from Elliston Place Soda Shop, shaking hands with Al Gore and Tipper Gore, standing side by side taking pictures with Donna Brazile, listening to Joyce stories, and road trips with Team Womack to watch the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Atlanta Braves; and

WHEREAS, she has also had the opportunity to make the acquaintance of numerous outstanding Tennesseans including, our official Sgt.-At-Arms, Mr. Joe Webb, Mr. Bill Hollings, Ms. Pam 'Tutor' Mason, Mr. Jerry Winters, Mr. Patrick Smith, Dr. Jane Walters, former Governor Ned McWherter, and Congressman Bob and Mary Clement, as well as enjoying the camaraderie of fellow interns and staff of the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fleming has also been afforded those once in a lifetime opportunities that only an intern with the Senate Education Committee of the Tennessee General Assembly can enjoy, including attending luncheons and becoming a member of the Nashville Women's Political Caucus; attending the Gore Campaign 2000 Presidential Primary party where Tennessee's favorite son, Al Gore, gained the Democratic nomination; a picnic luncheon and private tour of the Governor's Mansion; and an excursion to the Tennessee State Prison; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor will soon never again as an intern view legislative battles from the staff chairs in the Senate Hearing Room, spend quality time in the Senate copy room, distribute calendars and summary packets to the masses, answer constituent phone calls about income taxes or accumulate mileage and live dangerously by traveling the corridors of Legislative Plaza; and

WHEREAS, her outstanding work and tremendous dedication will stand her in good stead as she begins the pursuit of her dream of obtaining her Ph.D. and becoming an internationally renowned, award-winning scholar of political science and the head of her own much acclaimed non-profit foundation from which she will tour the country giving seminars on "THE BIG PICTURE"; and

WHEREAS, she has conducted herself in a meritorious manner and learned through her internship the difference between a textbook about government full of words and the texts of words from which our real government is formed; and

WHEREAS, the only thing besides a congratulatory resolution that could make her internship complete would be a daily dose of chips and spinach con queso dip from La Paz, a free lunch pass from Monell's, a date or two with Derek Jeter or a lifetime supply of smoothies none of which were included in any of the numerous budget amendments, er, budget CUT amendments filed with the Senate Finance Committee; and

WHEREAS, Eleanor had been eagerly awaiting her graduation from Vanderbilt and Team Womack sincerely apologizes for their non-attendance, (we are truly sorry we missed Joe B. and Martha and the last gasp - NOT) but we will always be here for her to have lunch with and chat over the latest Ebay auction on Barbara Jordan memorabilia and the latest great editorial from Molly Ivins; we just hope we compare favorably to the Congressional internship, and remind her that if there aren't fools in the legislature, then it isn't a representative body; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Eleanor Bright Fleming has performed her duties and many responsibilities with extraordinary ingenuity and decorum which, in the words of Speaker Wilder translates to "She was good"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and congratulate Eleanor Bright Fleming on her outstanding service as the state intern to the esteemed Senate Education Committee, Senator Andy Womack, Chairman and committee staff, Sandi Jones and Jacqueline Nash and express our deepest appreciation and thanks to her. We wish Eleanor every good thing in life and success in all her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That four (4) appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.